


**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 16, 25, 29, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38 and 39.

Please cancel claims 2, 5, 6, 17, 27, 31, 40, and 43 without prejudice.

Please add new claim 46.




1. (Currently amended) A password entry method comprising the steps of:  
prompting for entry of a password; [and]  
outputting dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information in connection  
with the prompting for entry of the password[.] including displaying an animated image in  
connection with the prompting for entry of the password; and  
altering at least one feature of the animated image in response to entry of one or  
more entered password characters.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of outputting dynamic  
password entry interface legitimacy information includes providing an audible output in  
connection with the prompting for entry of the password.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1 including the step of storing the  
animated image for retrieval for use as part of a password entry interface.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1 including the step of displaying the animated image prior to allowing input of a password.
-  8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1 including the step of displaying animated image after allowing input of a password.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of prompting for entry of a password includes displaying a password entry field; and wherein the step of displaying the animated image includes displaying an animated image associated with the password entry field.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 including the step of receiving biometric information in response to the step of prompting for the password.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1 including the step of receiving text information in response to the step of prompting for the password.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 including the step of storing a plurality of selectable animated images as the dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information and selecting, in response to user input, at least one of the plurality of selectable animated images for output on a display device during prompting for password entry.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1 wherein the animated image is unique to a password.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1 wherein the animated image includes a moving three-dimensional image.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 including the step of granting access to an information security engine in response to receiving valid password information after prompting for the password.

16. (Currently Amended) A password entry method comprising the steps of:  
storing an animated image for retrieval for use as part of a password entry interface;  
prompting for entry of a password as part of the password entry interface; [and]  
displaying the stored animated image during the prompting for entry of the password to provide password entry interface security enhancement[.]; and  
altering at least one visual feature of the animated image in response to entry of at least one entered password characters.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of prompting for entry of a password includes displaying a password entry field; and wherein the step of displaying the animated image includes displaying an animated image associated with the password entry field.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 including the step of receiving biometric information in response to the step of prompting for entry of the password.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 including the step of receiving text information in response to the step of prompting for entry of the password.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 including the steps of:  
storing a plurality of selectable animated images, and  
selecting, in response to user input, at least one of the plurality of selectable animated images for output on a display device during prompting for password entry.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the animated image is unique to a password.

23. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the animated image includes a moving three-dimensional image.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20 including the step of granting access to an information security engine in response to receiving valid password information after prompting for the password.

25. (Currently Amended) A password entry apparatus comprising:

a processing device operative to provide a password entry interface to provide a prompt for entry of a password; [and]

memory, operatively coupled to the processing device, containing dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information for output, to provide password entry interface security enhancement[.];

the processing device being operatively coupled to a display device and displays an animated image in connection with the prompting for entry of the password and alters at least one feature of the animated image in response to entry of at least one entered password characters.


26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processing device outputs the dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information in response to the prompt for entry of the password.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processing device provides an audible output, as the dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information, in connection with the prompting for entry of the password.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [27] 25 wherein the processing device retrieves from the memory, the animated image and displays the animated image as part of the password entry interface on the display device.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processing device outputs an expected graphical pattern that changes in response to entry of one or more entered password characters.

 31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [27] 25 wherein the processing device displays the animated image prior to allowing input of a password.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [27] 25 wherein the processing device displays the animated image after allowing input of a password.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [27] 25 wherein the processing device display the password entry interface having a password entry field.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processing device receiving biometric information in response to displaying the password entry interface.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the memory contains a plurality of selectable animated images as the dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information and wherein the processing device receives a selection data identifying at least one of the plurality of selectable animated images for output on a display device during prompting for password entry.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [27] 25 wherein the animated image includes a moving three-dimensional image.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [27] 25 wherein the processing device grants access to an information security engine in response to receiving valid password information after prompting for the password.

39. (Currently Amended) A storage medium comprising:  
memory containing programming instructions that when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:  
prompt for entry of a password;[and]  
output dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information in connection with the prompting for entry of the password[.] including displaying an animated image in connection with the prompting for entry of the password; and  
at least one feature of the animated image in response to entry of one or more entered password characters.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Original) The storage medium of claim 39 including memory containing programming instructions that when executed by the one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to provide an audible output in connection with the prompting for entry of the password.

42. (Original) The storage medium of claim 39 including memory containing programming instructions that when executed by the one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to output an expected graphical pattern that changes in response to entry of one or more entered password characters.

 43. (Canceled)

44. (Original) The storage medium of claim 39 including memory containing programming instructions that when executed by the one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to display a password entry field; and to display an animated image associated with the password entry field.

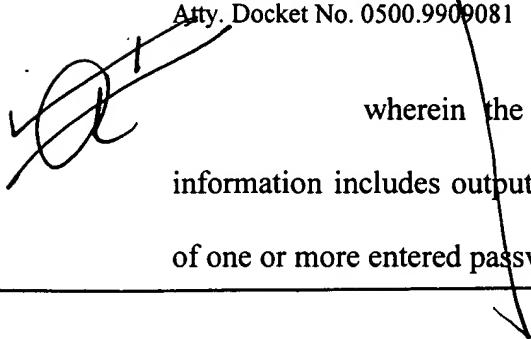
45. (Original) The storage medium of claim 39 including memory containing programming instructions that when executed by the one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to receive biometric information in response to prompting for the password.

46. (New): A password entry method comprising the steps of:  
prompting for entry of a password;

outputting dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information in connection with the prompting for entry of the password and displaying an animated image in connection with the prompting for entry of the password;

altering at least one feature of the animated image in response to entry of one or more entered password characters; and



 wherein the step of outputting dynamic password entry interface legitimacy information includes outputting an expected graphical pattern that changes in response to entry of one or more entered password characters.

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